

GLOBAL RESOURCE ACTION CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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January 18, 2002

Dr. Bernard Schwetz
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
14-71 Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Schwetz,

We urge you to maintain the current labeling law for irradiated foods, which requires irradiated whole foods sold in stores to be labeled "Treated by (or "with") Irradiation."

The American people have made it known that they want to know if food has been irradiated. As you know, 98.2 percent of Americans responding to a recent FDA survey said they wanted the current law maintained or strengthened to include the labeling of irradiated ingredients. Even after the telling result of the survey, FDA felt a need to convene focus groups to determine consumer opinion on labeling. Comments from participants on the use of misleading euphemisms included, "sneaky," "deceptive" and "a lie." These groups were unanimously opposed to changing the labeling rules for irradiated food.

Please reject any attempts to deceive consumers—the use of misleading labels is simply unacceptable. If irradiated food is allowed on the market, it is only fair to disclose this information with clear and accurate labeling.

Sincerely,

Christina Salvi
Program Associate

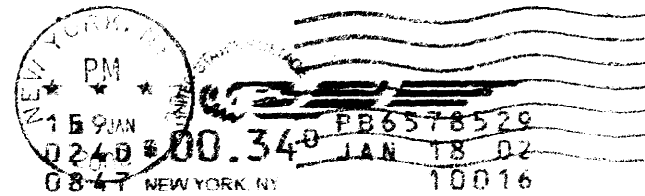
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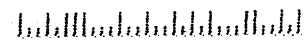


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